Ancient Custom at One Time Developed Into Demand as Right and Became Nuisance.



HE bestownl of Christmas boxes is of great antiquity, and was formerly the bounty of well disposed persons who were willing to contrib-

ute something toward the industrious Later the gift came to be demanded as a right and became somewhat of a nuisance. Long ago the Roman Catholic priests had masses for everything, and if a ship went to the West Indies they had a box in her under the protection of some patron saint, into which the sallors put money or other valuables in order to secure the prayers of the church. At Christmas these hoxes were opened and were thence called Christmas boxes. In England the day after Christmas is known as "Boxing day," from the Christmas boxes which used to be in circulation, and in the British museum can be seen boxes covered with green glaze with a slit in the side for money and presents.



CHRISTMAS BAG FOR GUESTS

Container for Presents Attached to Backs of Chairs With Bow of Red Satin Ribbon.

THE Christmes bog is an innevation planned by one housekeeper. The breakfast table is to be decorated with a mirror in the center, outlined as a star by holly sprigs, and with a ender cut glass vase in the center holding red chrysanthemums. Long-Stemmed flowers also radiate from the central star with the blossoms toward the plates of those for whom the flowers are intended. Every napkin lies beneath a Christmas card with a sprig of holly tied upon it with red ribbon, and to the back of every chair is ried a bag with a big red satin bow. The bags are of all sizes, and each is full of individual gifts. One is an opera bag, another a shopping bag in black and gold, still another is brown leather and gold naitheads, another a bag for collars and cuffs, another a gay hundry bag, one is suggestive of the scraps grandmother will put into it, and the other of books that a small girl will carry to school. All are as dainty and fine as careful workmanship and good materials can make them, and there will be fun emptying the materials out of the va-



经国际的 1000年 1000 Differ on Christ's Birthday

THE early Christmas were diwhich the nativity of Christ should be celebrated. Some of these celebrated it on the first or sixth of January, other groups observed September 29 and still another March 29. As early as the fourth century, however, the period of the new year had been generally accepted as the time for celebrating Christ's birth. The Western branch of the church observed December 25 the Eastern church January 6. Finally it was decided that all should celebrate December 25. Pope Julius I., who presided in the first baif of the fourth century, is credited with baving set

AND A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF

Roses at Christmas.

The fact that we can get flowers out of doors at Christmas time is in Itself a sufficient justification for growing the Christmas rose, but besides that it is worth growing for itself, says Country Life in America. Its large resembling those of a giant single rose, although as a matter of fact it belongs to the same family as the buttercups, never fall to excite enthusiasm in the season of snow and ice. greenish-white flowers are borne in clusters and nestle closely among the dark green leaves.

Novel Christmas Salad Bowl.

By the time that the salad course arrives at the Christmas dinner all that surround the festive board are apt to be warm. It will be refreshing see the salad come to the table in a block of ice. Smooth the ice square with a hot flat fron and make a cavity in the center with the same utenstl. Border with crisp lettuce and sprigs of holly and fill with salad. Place the block on several thicknesses of cloth or a deep platter and put around it a



An Easy Gift.

Bug - Doing

shopping now?

Why It's a long

Mrs. Snall - 1

Small boy, running up and displaying state:-"Just look, uncle, what Pve done with my example! Got a whole milition: I'll give it to you as a Christmas present."-Fliegende Rietter.

Would Be Mined

ing with his new unite my little boy broke the blade and come in feeling padly about it. I told bim I was sorry, too. He thought about it a fittle while, then he said: "My, but my pocket will be lonesome without my knife."-Ex-

Really Not Worth It. There is one way to keep people interesting talk followed by a talk from talking about you. It is to may by Rev. L. L. Dewey, Mrs. Frod nothing, do nothing and be nothing Brown gave a reading and a "Misslopary Clinic," a playette was given

Ttems of County News

News of our neighboring villages as gleaned each week by our staff of special correspondents

ITHACA

The Christmas seal sale for the Mrs. Sam Hackett of Wheeler. village of Ithaca is in charge of Rev. William Roberts, paster of the Presbyterian church, of this place. Rev byterian church, of this place. Rev byterian church, of this place. Rev byterian church has appointed Miss Harriet llodges in charge of school children; Miss Genevieve Hodges and Mrs. Louis Grettenberger of the business lection and Mrs. E. H. Foust of the residence section. They expect to sell at least 10,000 seals in Ithaca. Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Algred Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Miss Linda Knorpp, Miss Ethel Miss Linda Knorpp byterian church, of this place. Rev. tives in Breckenridge and Wheeler Roberts has appointed Miss Harriet returned home Monday morning.

orning at the high school Rev. William Roberts talked to the young again in the near future.

friend and after a pot luck supper that things will move more smoothscrap books were made and Christ- ly again. gifts distributed Miss Irene Sackett is teacher of this class.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Knight of Alma were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Willert Sunday.

Frank Crane and son, Stanley, were in Mt. Pleasant Friday and Saturday.

Clausmates of Ernestine Crittenden met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blizard Thursday evening for a pot luck supper with her on the eve of her departure for Chicago where she is to make her home. Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Convis, Victor

Sawyer, Miss Harriet Hodges and Nettie Roberts were in attendance at a meeting of the Epworth League in St. Louis Sunday

Dayton Powers and family of Alma were recent guests of Frank

Wednesday evening at the Methodat church boys of the high school white flowers, fully two inches across, entertained the men of the town. A juncheon was served and before adjournment to the auditorium Nile Jessup entertained the company with a number of slight of hand tricks and Mr. Pratt of Alma college gave The plant itself grows only six to p monologue. Lewis Grettenberger, inches high, and the large, superintendent of Ithaca high school, called to order and orchestra music opened the program. Boys who attended the Y. M. C. A. banquet at Grand Rapids were called upon for reports. This was followed by brief talks of a number of business men Mr. Platt then gave a talk on his regeneration from the slums of Detroit to preparatory work in the mission field. After the program the boys challenged the men to a basket tall game at the armory. The game was won by the boys. The score being 6 and 9. The men's team was composed of Lavergne Chapin, Lewis Grettenberger, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Finlayson and L. L. Dewey.

Rolla McCall and Howard Crawford were in Merrill Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Coleman oft the first of the week to spend; ome months in Florida.

Robert Sawyer of Detroit came Thursday to spend until after the bolidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Sawyer.

The members of the Women's Foreign Missionary society of the Methodist church entertained their husbands also the Standard Bearers, the Phileathea Sunday school class and the extension and bonorary members of their society at a banuset at the Methodist church Friday vening. The company numbered about 125 and the banquet was served by four boys. Victor Sawyer, Raymond Harvey, L. J. Keeler and Rodney Lake. After the banquet a One day white out in the yard plays program was given consisting of music, a talk by the president of the receitty, Mrs. J. B. Gardner, and president of the Standard Bearers and Supervisor of the Kings Heralds, Miss Edna Thomas told of the work of these organizations. Mrs. M. G. Shinner, second vice-president of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of Lansing district gave a very interesting talk followed by a talk by Rev. L. L. Dewey, Mrs. Frod

HUMINIMOREMUM COMMISSION | by the Standard Bearers. An offering was taken. This goes to pay the passage of outgoing missionaries.

her sister.

The Crescent Rebekah lodge held Mr. Elwin Joslin and Miss Emma their annual fair and baked goods sexton, Newton Joslin and wife of sale Saturday, December 11, in the Clarks Lake, Mrs. Agnes Crawford William A Babike, Atterney. sale Saturday, December 11, in the Clarks Lake, Mrs. Agnes Crawford Gibbs Peabody and Hubbard land of- and Mr. and Mrs. Millard Hopkins

the rural districts in the county and she has appointed a person from cach township to have charge of the sale of seals.

At chapel exercises Wednesday

At themselves as very desirous of going
A true conv. Attest.

A District of Probate

A true conv. Attest.

A District of Probate

Register of Probate

77-4

people about the secret of victory in faculty of the Breckenridge high The Pollyanna class of the Method- school was called Saturday night st Sunday school enjoyed a Christ- and after many able speeches on mas party at the church after school both sides it seems a better under-Thursday evening. Each member standing of the methods to be used had the privelege of inviting a has been reached and now it is hoped LEGAL NOTICES

MORTGAGE SALE

spent Sunday evening with Mr. and
Mrs. Sam Hackett of Wheeler.

Newton Joslin and bride of Clarks
Lake, who have been visiting rela
STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court
for the County of Gratiot
At a session of said court, held at the probate office, in the Village of Ithaca, in said

How's This? We offer \$10.00 for any case of catarra that cannot be cured by HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE.

HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System.

Sold by druggists for over forty years.

Price Bc. Testimonials free.

F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

THE BUSY STORE

Christmas Gifts

That Make Your Dollar Go a Long Way

Hundreds of Useful Gifts Ready at the Store Where You Choose With Confidence

Give Dad and Mother

A Good Time This Christmas by Giving Them a Pair of Cozy and

Comfortable Slippers

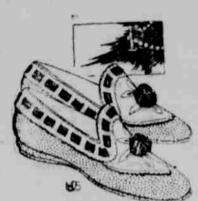
Ladies' ribbon trimmed felt Slippers, felt collar with pinked edges and satin ribbon inserted with ornaments to match, blue, lavender, maroon, light and dark green-this slipper was bought to sell for \$2,50 but we're selling it at

Ladies' high grade felt Slippers, made in every attractive two-tone effect. the collar being of a contrasting or harmonizing shade-this was also bought to sell for more money-but will go at

Women's Juliets of heavy best quality felt, plush trimmed to match, flexible leather sole and heel. dainty light colors, shapely last, great value at

Artistic Kodak

Purses



Boys' Felt House Slippers, unlined, soft padded leather sole, very comfortable and durable at

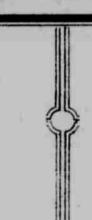
Children's Juliets of heavy best quality felt, plush trimmed to match in red. just the slipper for active youngsters at

Boys' and girls' good quality Juliette Felt Slippers, with a very flexible leather stitch down sole, an extra good one for service at

Men's Romeo, leather upper, good flexible leather sole and heel with rubber inside, a \$4.00 slipper at

Also all felt slippers for

\$2.98



Apples, Oranges Lemons, Grapefruit and Bananas.

The finest of Candies, Tobaccos and Cigars.

We keep the hest and which your trade.

Piccolo Bros. & Biafore The Fruit Store

ALMA'S LARGEST GROCERY

IS READY TO SERVE YOU

For the Holiday trade our stock of groceries is fresh and we have the largest variety in the city to select

> FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES OF ALL KINDS

Raisins Candied Peels Dates Oranges Lemons Grape Fruit Bananas

Apples Grapes Green Peppers Celery Cucumbers Tomatoes Head Lettuce Radishes

SPECIAL—Fine assortment of Xmas Candies

Our store will be closed Christmas day.

ALMA'S LARGEST GROCERY

Made of very genuine leather in quality cotton taffeta black and brown or on very close folding gray, also in beautiful steel frames, imitation motiled effects, three

or Shine

Umbrellas for Rain

ivory cap tips, handle large compartments, and wristlet ring, each silk lined, contains with a silk taffeta mirror and coin purse.

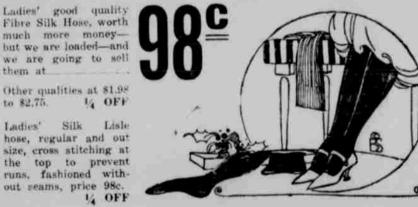


Hosiery for the Whole Family The Kind of Quality That Never Disappoints

Fibre Silk Hose, worth much more moneybut we are loaded-and we are going to sell them at

Other qualities at \$1.98 to \$2.75. 14 OFF Ladies' Silk hose, regular and out size, cross stitching at

out seams, price 986



in brown, black and navy-good value at pair SPECIAL at FOUR PAIR FOR

85c Lumbermen's wool sox, a good extra heavy one, bought to sell at \$1.25, special

79c We have hosiery for men from 25c to \$1.98. 1/4 OFF

One-Fourth Off on All Hosiery Except Specials



STATIONERY, GAMES, BOOKS AND DOLLS

all colors, makes a dandy Christmas present, priced much be-

59c

Suspenders in fancy boxes for Dad.

Christmas Handkereller Silk, linen and lawn handerchiefs for men from

chiefs, fancy and plain from also a large assortment for children at all prices. **8c** to **59**c

10c to 75c

Silk, linen and lawn hander-

A large assortment of Christmas handkerchiefs in Christboxes, all

GARTERS IN FANCY BOXES

The Big Sale Still Continues -- 1/4, 1/3 and 1/2 Off

ALMA, MICHIGAN

自主商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商本商